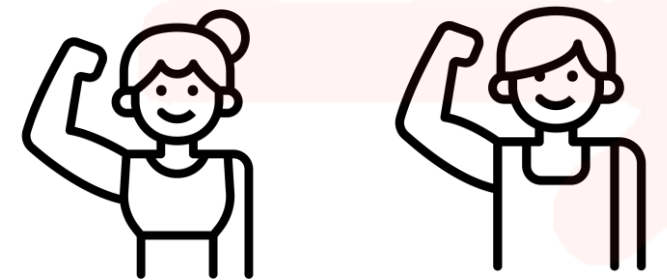


# FlexForum

Agree the FlexForum Workplan for 2024 and beyond

30 November 2023



The purpose of the FlexForum is to **support coordinated and collaborative action** to make it easier for households, businesses and communities to maximise the value of consumer and distributed energy resources and flexibility to:

- support affordable and reliable operation of the electricity market and power system
- enable accelerated electrification by households and businesses as part of the transition in Aotearoa New Zealand to zero emissions economy

You should all be familiar with the requirements of the Commerce Act 1986, prohibiting anti-competitive conduct. You should not discuss commercially sensitive areas of competitive activity, including (but not limited to) relating to agreements to fix, control or maintain prices, restrict output or capacity, or allocate markets or customers

A written record of the discussions today will be available

# Today: 30 November 2023

1. Welcome
2. FlexForum updates – things done and planned
3. Workstream statements
4. The 2024 workplan
  - a) what is on the table
  - b) what gets done and when
  - c) the proposed Workplan for 2024 and Beyond
5. Next steps
6. Appendix: more detail
  - a) reasons for initiating the proposed tasks

# 1. Welcome

## Purpose of this item:

- Welcome
- Purpose of this session - endorse a FlexForum Workplan for 2024 and beyond
- Anything else?

## 2. FlexForum updates – things done and planned

### Purpose of this item:

- a quick around the grounds update on things done and planned

### Topical topics

- membership
- finances and funding
- Steering Group - who and what
- who we have and will be talking with

# 3. The workplan development process to date

## Purpose of this item:

- a quick recap of how we have got to today's discussion

## The workplan development process...

- 24 August. Workplan Workshop. Members agreed 4 workstreams and a process to identify workstream tasks
- 22 September. Members got a briefing pack to support the 4 workstreams agree the purpose, scope and initial tasks of each
  - 17 October - Digitalisation stream
  - 18 October - Market frameworks stream
  - 24 October - Flexibility resource integration and visibility stream
  - 30 October - Consumer information and participation stream
- October and November....each stream scoped the tasks they want to undertake from the >30 ideas/tasks which emerged from the kick-off sessions
- 10 November - workstream conveners + independent chair reviewed workstream statements and scoping of tasks
- 23 November - workstream conveners et al confirmed the list of tasks aligned with the FlexForum objective and purpose and the Flexibility Plan and agreed the approach to finalise the Workplan for 2024 and beyond
- 30 November [you are here]

### 3. Workstream statements and Workstream conveners

The workstream statements describe their reason for being:

- they provide a reference point for what the stream does
- they can be updated if they don't accurately describe what the stream does
- talk to your friendly workstream convener if you can say it better

<b>Digitalisation</b>	<b>Market frameworks</b>	<b>Flexible resource integration and visibility</b>	<b>Consumer information and participation</b>
...to inform the digitalisation requirements for an electricity ecosystem that enables distributed flexibility and maximises its value to households, businesses and communities.	...to inform the requirements of market frameworks and practices which enable easy participation by households, businesses and communities and optimise the exchange of flexibility across the electricity ecosystem	...to inform the development of technical capabilities required to physically integrate distributed flexibility into the power system and ensure households, businesses and communities may maximise the value of distributed flexibility.	...to inform how to enable households, businesses and communities to make good decisions about distributed flexibility by identifying barriers to decision-making and working to ensure regulatory and market settings account for consumer values and outcomes
Terry Paddy (Cortexo)	Grace Burtin (Manawa Energy)	Stuart Johnson (EEA)	Tom Rose (Evnex)

High fives for our workstream conveners who volunteered for a necessary and tough job

## 4. The Workplan for 2024 and Beyond

### Purpose of this item:

- to endorse a workplan for 2024 and Beyond (no pressure)

The Workplan is a PROCESS for delivering the FlexForum objective and Flexibility Plan in 2024 and beyond

The process has 3 parts. Each part requires a decision(s)

Process part	Decision
What tasks are on the Workplan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Do Members agree the task aligns with the FlexForum objective and purpose?</li><li>▪ Do Members agree the task helps to deliver Flexibility Plan 1.0?</li></ul>
What gets done and when, ie, how tasks move from idea, to initiation, to delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Is someone else already doing it?</li><li>▪ Where is the task in the double diamond process?</li><li>▪ How directly does the task make it easier for households, business or communities to maximise the value of their distributed flexibility?</li><li>▪ Does a workstream(s) think work on the task is needed now? (for reasons including dependencies, doability etc)</li><li>▪ Does a regulator want to regulate?</li><li>▪ Is the task needed to meet the FlexForum objective/purpose?</li></ul>
What gets delivered (in 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Are appropriate resources available?</li></ul>



## 4a. What tasks are on the table (ie, what is the workplan?)

### Purpose of this item:

- Agree the tasks listed on page 9 align with the FlexForum objective and purpose.
- Agree the tasks listed on page 9 help to deliver Flexibility Plan 1.0.

The workplan development process resulted in 23 tasks summarised [here](#) and listed on page 9 [next page]

- 18 workstream tasks have been 'scoped' enough to understand the purpose and expected outputs and the link to the FlexForum objective and Flexibility Plan
- 2 foundational tasks needed to set the scene for all other workstream tasks
- 3 BAU tasks which are common to all streams and none and necessary to meet the FlexForum purpose

## 4a. 23 tasks are on the table

Do these tasks:

- align with the FlexForum objective and purpose
- will help to deliver Flexibility Plan 1.0.

Not all of these tasks can be done in 2024

<b>Consumer participation tasks</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Exploring how to get consumers usable information about distributed flexibility at the point of decision</li><li>2. The many ways a household, business or community can benefit from distributed flexibility</li><li>3. Information inputs to enable informed distributed flexibility feasibility studies and decision making</li><li>4. Unlocking product and service innovation</li><li>5. Flexibility options available to a household with electric hot water</li></ol>	
<b>Flexible resource integration tasks</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Lessons from the system and market integration pathway for distributed flexibility elsewhere in the world</li><li>2. Snapshot of network voltage performance and the impacts)</li><li>3. Input to the EEA project to develop a common connection guideline</li><li>4. Identify the minimum level of network visibility required to unlock distributed flexibility</li></ol>	<b>Market frameworks tasks</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A stocktake of the existing flexible resources, their opportunities and beneficiaries</li><li>2. Incentives, assumptions and barriers to distributed flexibility</li><li>3. Identify options for including flexible resources in the Registry</li><li>4. Develop a manual and advice about what needs to happen for EV chargers to be offered into dispatch notification</li></ol>
<b>Digitalisation tasks</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Set the scene for digitalising the electricity ecosystem</li><li>2. Explore the functionality and attributes for demand flexible devices and the role of standards</li><li>3. Fit-for-purpose data exchange processes</li><li>4. Communication and contractual architecture options for distributed flexibility</li></ol>	
<b>Foundational tasks</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A plausible future state for distributed flexibility</li><li>2. Involving households, businesses and communities in the path to distributed flexibility</li></ol>	
<b>Common tasks</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Progress with delivering the Flexibility Plan</li><li>2. Update the flexibility plan</li><li>3. Respond to regulatory and policy proposals</li><li>4. Drawing lessons from learning-by-doing</li></ol>	

## 4b What gets done and when - from idea, to initiation, to delivery

Are you comfortable with:

- the proposed workplan process
- the proposed criteria to move to the initiation stage

### Purpose of this item:

- outline the roles of Workstreams, Conveners, Steering Group and FlexForum Members have in the Workplan process
- agree the criteria for initiating a task that is on the Workplan

The workplan process is a machine to turn ideas into tasks into outputs that align with the FlexForum objective, purpose and Flexibility Plan. The PROCESS has 3 main stages. More detail on expected roles across the stages is outlined on page 11

- scoping - a workstream has an idea and defines the task. The Conveners run a ruler over the idea/task before Members are asked to agree it goes on the Workplan. Being on the Workplan allows the task to move to the initiation stage
- initiation - tasks put on the Workplan and in the 'we would like to do it now' category (based on criteria outlined below) get the task initiation treatment, ie, milestones, timelines, resource estimates etc. Tasks not meeting the 'do it now' criteria wait for resources
- delivery - tasks with an initiation plan agreed by the workstream are delivered subject to resourcing (managed by the Conveners and the Steering Group).

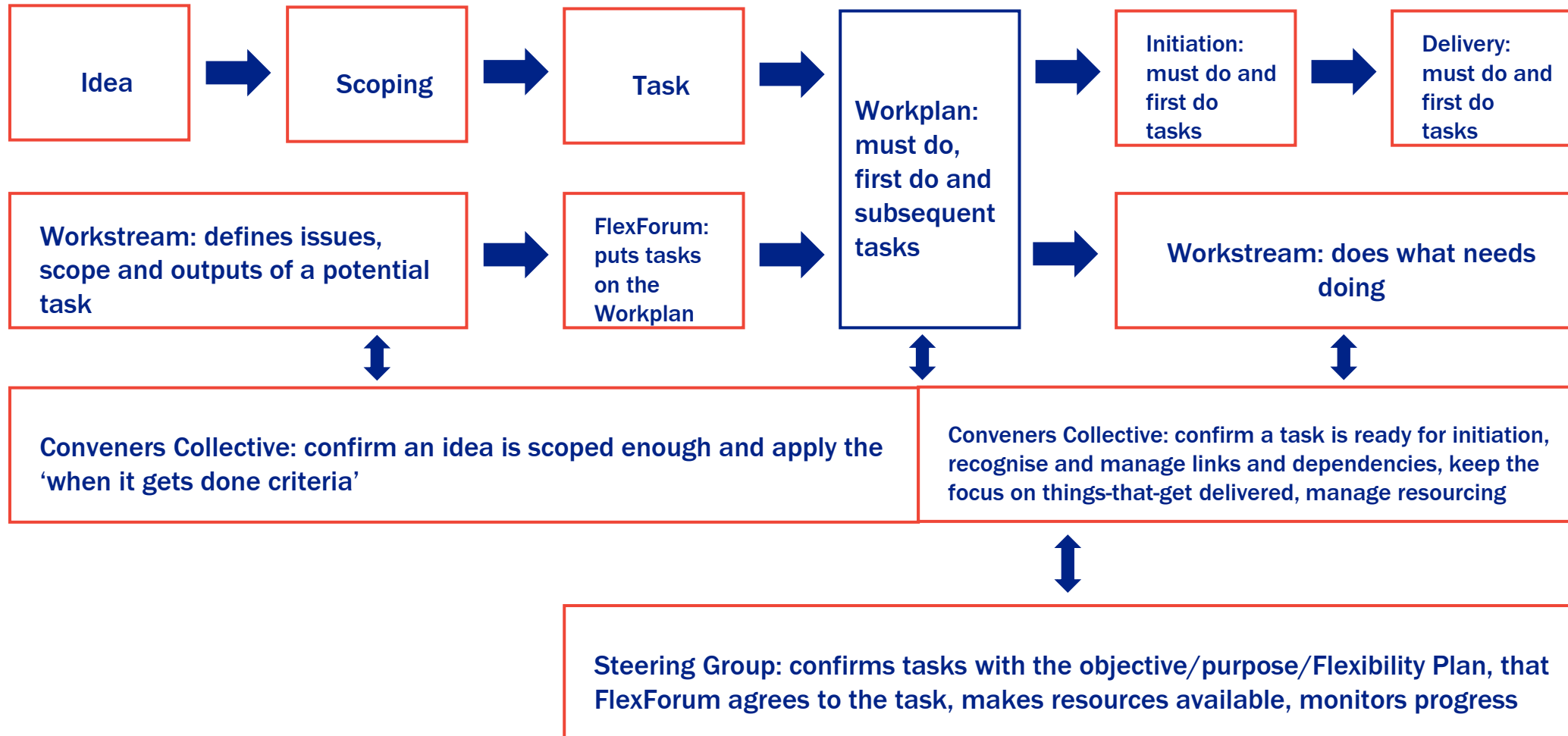
### Criteria to move a task to the initiation stage

### Purpose

Is someone else already doing something that will achieve the output/outcome?	No need to duplicate
Where is the task in the double diamond process?	Prefer tasks closer to the LHS (eg, understanding)
How directly does the task make it easier for households, business or communities to maximise the value of their distributed flexibility?	Prefer tasks which more immediately benefit households / business / communities...
Does a workstream(s) think work on the task is needed now? (for reasons including dependencies, doability etc)	Be guided by the people on the tools. Particularly if >1 streams are keen
Does a regulator want to regulate?	Better to make sure regulation is well informed
Is the task needed to meet the FlexForum objective/purpose?	See FlexForum purpose clause 3.2 (see notes)

## Workplan process roles and responsibilities to turn ideas into useful outputs

- Workstreams - have the ideas, scope and deliver tasks
- Conveners - make sure ideas are good enough and coordinate workstream activities
- Steering Group - make sure tasks align with objective/purpose/Flexibility Plan, obtain resources and monitor progress
- FlexForum (ie, Members) - decide what goes on the Flexibility Plan and endorse choices about what gets done



# 4c Proposed focus for 2024

## Purpose of this item:

- to endorse the list of tasks (below, and page 13) to be initiated and, subject to resourcing, delivered in 2024

Workstream Conveners proposed 11 tasks for the 2024 Workplan. Delivering these tasks depends on the streams agreeing an initiation plan and resourcing - check out how the mapping of tasks across the Double Diamond on page 13

- 2 foundational tasks
- 3 common tasks needed to deliver the FlexForum objective/purpose
- 6 tasks to understand things well enough to consider options

## Do you endorse FlexForum:

- 'initiating' these tasks
- starting to deliver these tasks in 2024 subject to resourcing and workstreams signing off the initiation plan

### Consumer participation tasks

1. The many ways a household, business or community can benefit from distributed flexibility
2. Exploring how to get consumers usable information about distributed flexibility at the point of decision

### Flexible resource integration tasks

1. Lessons from the system and market integration pathway for distributed flexibility elsewhere in the world

### Market frameworks tasks

1. A stocktake of the existing flexible resources, their opportunities and beneficiaries

### Digitalisation tasks

1. Set the scene for digitalising the electricity ecosystem
2. Explore the functionality and attributes for demand flexible devices and the role of standards

### Foundational tasks

1. A plausible future state for distributed flexibility
2. Involving households, businesses and communities in the path to distributed flexibility [identified by the Consumer stream, but a foundational task]

### Common tasks

1. Progress with delivering the Flexibility Plan
2. Update the flexibility plan
3. Respond to regulatory and policy proposals

Check out the reasons/application of the criteria in Appendix A

# FlexForum Workplan Double Diamond



## Foundational tasks

A plausible future state...

Involving people in the path to distributed flexibility...

Set the scene for digitalising...

Lessons from integration elsewhere...

Stocktake of resources, opportunities and users...

Ways people can benefit from distributed flexibility...

Explore functionality...for flexible devices

Explore getting people flexibility information when they buy devices

Information inputs for decisions...

Unlocking product and service innovation...

Communication and contractual architecture options...

Options to include flexible resources in the registry...

Fit-for-purpose data exchange processes

## Refinement

Minimum level of network visibility for flexibility...

Input to EEA connection guidelines project...

## Exploration

Drawing lessons from learning-by-doing...

## Implementation

User guide for EV chargers to be offered into dispatch notification...

## BAU tasks

Progress with delivering the Flexibility Plan...

Respond to regulatory and policy proposals...

Update the Flexibility Plan...

## Understanding

Incentives, assumptions and barriers to flexibility...

Snapshot of voltage...

# 5 Next steps The 2024 workplan

## Purpose of this item:

- to recap and set out next steps

## A recap

- the Workplan for 2024 and Beyond = the list of tasks emerging from the workstreams scoping process
  - the tasks all align with the FlexForum objective/purpose/Flexibility Plan
  - the tasks all have been documented - see the relevant the task-on-a-page descriptions
- the 2024 Workplan = 11 tasks listed on page 12
  - these tasks move to the initiation stage to produce a detailed task delivery plan by 16 February (or before)
  - note: the Foundational task **A plausible future state for distributed flexibility** will be expedited to try to be available as an input to other tasks
- delivery will begin based on available resources and the task delivery plan
  - the task delivery plan is endorsed by the relevant Workstream
  - resources are available...

# Appendix: Reasons for initiating the proposed tasks (1)

The 3 Common tasks meet the criteria to move to the initiation stage

- Monitoring progress with, and updating the Flexibility Plan are expected by the Constitution. Progress and potential updates should be identified organically through workstream activities, but a deliberate effort will be required to document these etc
- Responding to regulatory and policy consultations. Responding to consultations will be constant throughout 2024. The amount of effort required will be driven by the regulatory agenda and what the workstreams and FF thinks is important

Criteria to move a task to the initiation stage	Common tasks
Is someone else already doing something that will achieve the output/outcome?	No.
Where is the task in the double diamond process?	BAU task. See mapping to the double diamond on page 13
How directly does the task make it easier for households, business or communities to maximise the value of their distributed flexibility?	NA
Does a workstream(s) think work on the task is needed now? (for reasons including dependencies, doability etc)	NA
Does a regulator want to regulate?	NA
Is the task needed to meet the FlexForum objective/purpose?	Yes, particularly the purposes involving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>maintain the Flexibility Plan, monitoring progress, making updates and amendments</li> <li>support and encourage sharing of insights, information and advice</li> </ul>



## Appendix: Reasons for initiating the proposed tasks (2)

The 2 Foundational tasks meet the criteria to move to the initiation stage

- the task to document A plausible future state for distributed flexibility is needed to provide a reference point for the thinking by all 4 workstreams. All the identified tasks implicitly assume a future state for distributed flexibility. But this future state has not been documented and agreed – it is a must have to ensure workstream tasks are on a similar page
- the task to identify how to involve people in the path to distributed flexibility will provide FlexForum with a how to earn social license guidebook and practices so we can start well

Criteria to move a task to the initiation stage	Foundational tasks
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A plausible future state for distributed flexibility</li> <li>Involving households, businesses and communities in the path to distributed flexibility [identified by the Consumer stream, but a foundational task]</li> </ol>
Is someone else already doing something that will achieve the output/outcome?	Not specifically. We can borrow other future state work to produce a FF version. We can work with the Consumer Advocacy Council etc on how to start well
Where is the task in the double diamond process?	Foundational tasks. See mapping to the double diamond on page 13
How directly does the task make it easier for households, business or communities to maximise the value of their distributed flexibility?	Adopting practices which involve people should increase the likelihood of working on things that make it easier...
Does a workstream(s) think work on the task is needed now? (for reasons including dependencies, doability etc)	The Consumer stream thinks this is needed now.
Does a regulator want to regulate?	NA
Is the task needed to meet the FlexForum objective/purpose?	Yes

## Appendix: Reasons for initiating the proposed tasks (3)

The 6 tasks to Understand things well enough to consider options meet the criteria to move to the initiation stage will be covered in turn

Criteria to move a task to the initiation stage	The many ways a household, business or community can benefit from distributed flexibility
Is someone else already doing something that will achieve the output/outcome?	No
Where is the task in the double diamond process?	Understanding phase. See mapping to the double diamond on page 13
How directly does the task make it easier for households, business or communities to maximise the value of their distributed flexibility?	Scene setting work to define use cases which will inform thinking on all enabling tasks - a users perspective of why people want/need distributed flexibility
Does a workstream(s) think work on the task is needed now? (for reasons including dependencies, doability etc)	The Consumer stream thinks this is needed now.
Does a regulator want to regulate?	EA is regulating in this space. A robust set of use cases will inform its efforts
Is the task needed to meet the FlexForum objective/purpose?	NA

## Appendix: Reasons for initiating the proposed tasks (4)

The 6 tasks to Understand things well enough to consider options meet the criteria to move to the initiation stage will be covered in turn

Criteria to move a task to the initiation stage	Set the scene for digitalising the electricity ecosystem
Is someone else already doing something that will achieve the output/outcome?	No
Where is the task in the double diamond process?	Understanding phase. See mapping to the double diamond on page 13
How directly does the task make it easier for households, business or communities to maximise the value of their distributed flexibility?	Not directly. Longer term understanding data flows/digitalisation will make it easier for people to use distributed flexibility
Does a workstream(s) think work on the task is needed now? (for reasons including dependencies, doability etc)	The Digitalisation stream thinks this is needed now.
Does a regulator want to regulate?	MBIE is thinking about developing a digitalisation strategy. The EA is working on things relevant to digitalisation
Is the task needed to meet the FlexForum objective/purpose?	NA

## Appendix: Reasons for initiating the proposed tasks (5)

The 6 tasks to Understand things well enough to consider options meet the criteria to move to the initiation stage will be covered in turn

Criteria to move a task to the initiation stage	Lessons from the system and market integration pathway for distributed flexibility elsewhere in the world
Is someone else already doing something that will achieve the output/outcome?	Partly, eg, FlexTalk is getting- EA technologies work on comms protocols
Where is the task in the double diamond process?	Understanding task. See mapping to the double diamond on page 13
How directly does the task make it easier for households, business or communities to maximise the value of their distributed flexibility?	Not directly. Longer term understanding what experience to adopt/avoid will accelerate progress and reduce transition costs
Does a workstream(s) think work on the task is needed now? (for reasons including dependencies, doability etc)	The Flexibility integration stream thinks this is needed now. The Digitalisation stream is also keen
Does a regulator want to regulate?	EA FSR work appears to be exploring DSO models
Is the task needed to meet the FlexForum objective/purpose?	NA

## Appendix: Reasons for initiating the proposed tasks (6)

The 6 tasks to Understand things well enough to consider options meet the criteria to move to the initiation stage will be covered in turn

Criteria to move a task to the initiation stage	A stocktake of the existing flexible resources, their opportunities and beneficiaries
Is someone else already doing something that will achieve the output/outcome?	No
Where is the task in the double diamond process?	Understanding task. See mapping to the double diamond on page 13
How directly does the task make it easier for households, business or communities to maximise the value of their distributed flexibility?	Not directly. Longer term the resulting understanding will inform thinking/direction of efforts relating to enabling flexibility to supply electricity products/services
Does a workstream(s) think work on the task is needed now? (for reasons including dependencies, doability etc)	The Market frameworks stream thinks this is needed now.
Does a regulator want to regulate?	Not currently
Is the task needed to meet the FlexForum objective/purpose?	NA

## Appendix: Reasons for initiating the proposed tasks (7)

The 6 tasks to Understand things well enough to consider options meet the criteria to move to the initiation stage will be covered in turn

Criteria to move a task to the initiation stage	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explore the functionality and attributes for demand flexible devices and the role of standards.</li> <li>2. Exploring how to get consumers usable information about distributed flexibility at the point of decision</li> </ol>
Is someone else already doing something that will achieve the output/outcome?	No. EECA is keen to see progress in this space though
Where is the task in the double diamond process?	Understanding tasks. See mapping to the double diamond on page 13
How directly does the task make it easier for households, business or communities to maximise the value of their distributed flexibility?	<p>Both tasks are directly focused on people and the devices they buy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ understanding the functionality that devices must have to be flexible is a necessary condition to raising public awareness, encouraging manufacturers/importers to make/sell flexible products, thinking about distribution connection standards, and ensuring a whole-of-system and end-to-end approach to digitalisation.</li> <li>▪ what people are told about flexibility when they are in the showroom/at the counter is expected to be a key source of information/advice about the benefits of a device being flexible.</li> </ul>
Does a workstream(s) think work on the task is needed now? (for reasons including dependencies, doability etc)	The Consumer stream and Digitalisation stream consider these tasks are needed
Does a regulator want to regulate?	Yes. EECA wants to regulate device standards. EECA is prepared to sponsor the work
Is the task needed to meet the FlexForum objective/purpose?	NA